

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-14 and 16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 6, 9 and 11 are amended, claim 16 is added and claims 5, 10 and 15 are cancelled. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 6 and 11 may be found on page 9, lines 12-13, page 12, lines 19-20, page 11, line 20 - page 12, line 12, page 17, line 15 - page 19, line 5, Figs. 4, 5 and 10, and in original claims 5, 10 and 15, for example. Support for added claim 16 may be found in p. 13, lines 1-5 and Fig. 6, for example. No new matter is added.

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP-A-06-266516 to Yukiko in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,190,481 to Hirabayashi and U.S. Patent No. 6,417,931 to Mori. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action concedes that Yukiko does not teach a document definition file storage section for storing one or more document definition files representing one or more layouts for one or more documents. The Office Action relies on Hirabayashi as supplying the missing the subject matter. Hirabayashi does not disclose that the format converting section inserts the text portions [in the print-request data received from another device on the network] into positions in the print data sent to the specified printing device according to the respective position indications in the specified document definition file, as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claims 6 and 11.

The layout information in Hirabayashi indicates a current layout in an editor page 81 (Fig. 37). The editor page allows a user to rotate, overlap, group, center, delete, zoom or show a grid on an image. The editor page also allows a user to add a text input (element 75 in Fig. 37). In Hirabayashi, the position of the text, and the text itself, appear to be created together and stored in the same layout information, using the editor page 81.

Because the user in Hirabayashi creates the text and text location at the same time, and stores these together as layout information, Hirabayashi does not disclose that the format converting section inserts the text portions [in the print-request data received from another device on the network] into positions in the print data sent to the specified printing device according to the respective position indications in the specified document definition file, as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claims 6 and 11.

In view of the above, the combination of applied references would not have rendered obvious the combinations of features recited in claims 1, 6 and 11. Thus, the combination of applied references would not have rendered obvious the combinations of features recited in the dependent claims for at least the respective dependence of these claims on allowable base claims, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the §103 rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim 16 depends from claim 1. Thus, the combination of applied references would not have rendered obvious claim 16 for at least the respective dependence of that claim on an allowable base claim, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that claim 16 recites.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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